

## Move Over, Linus—Security Napkins Preferred to Security Blankets at Early NSA December 7

We see them throughout the hallways of National Security Agency buildings—security posters reminding us to protect Agency secrets. But back in November 1955, the Agency's Security Education Program introduced a unique method to ensure that personnel remained security conscious even while partaking in a tasteful (or perhaps not so tasteful) repast at the cafeterias at Arlington Hall Station and Naval Security Station locations. Employees in cafeteria lines were issued security napkins that could be placed on their laps as a non-too-subtle reminder to guard against loose lips during luncheon conversations. These napkins were decorated with cartoons—presumably of a security awareness nature—designed by a Pentagon artist. The plan was to introduce a new cartoon on the napkins once a month.

Although we have no known examples or photographs of these napkins, no more information about the cartoonist, nor do we know how long the security napkin initiative lasted, we can only surmise that someone may have eventually recognized that a handful of posters would likely have more permanence and be more cost effective than thousands of either trash-bound paper, or laundry-bound cloth, serviettes.



508 caption: Employees stand in line to pick up meals at Arlington Hall Station's dining area. A napkin, though not necessarily the aforesaid security napkin, can be seen next to the coffee cup of the first woman in line.